

GEC PIPELINE



October 2001

Volume 13, No. 10, Page 1

Published as a service to the GEC network by the Wisconsin GEC, Marquette University, P.O. Box 1881, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1881, phone (800) 799-7878, fax (414) 288-1973, wgecnet@marquette.edu. Copy Edit & Page Layout: Julie Murphy

GEC Network Distance Learning Meeting a Huge Success!

Sponsored by the Bureau of Health Professions, the GEC Network convened in Washington DC on August 22nd-24th, 2001, for a Distance Learning Meeting. Sixty-two (62) representatives came from all regions of the United States and as far away as Puerto Rico to learn about distance education and share their ideas about how GECs could collaborate using distance learning technologies. A preliminary action plan was developed and workgroups were formed to follow up on various aspects of the plan, including: developing mission and goal statements for the DL task force and NAGEC; creating an administrative structure for supporting national collaborations; pursuing incorporation of and possible changes in NAGEC to support more collaborative projects; writing grants to fund potential projects; and embarking upon actual collaborative ventures. One copy of the meeting monograph will be mailed to each participant and will also be made available to everyone through the NAGEC website. Please ask your representative about the meeting and watch for the monograph to be announced in the next month.

From the Bureau of Health Professions – Joan Weiss, PhD, RN, CRNP Chief, Geriatrics and Rural Health Branch

It was good to see everyone at the Distance Learning meeting -- and also to know that all arrived home safely. For those attendees who were sponsored by BHP, we anticipate that reimbursements will go out in the next two weeks. I am using this space to draw your attention to some reports and other information that have crossed my desk recently.

The U.S. General Accounting Office has prepared a new report on long-term care for the Special Committee on Aging, U.S. Senate, entitled "Long-Term Care: Implications of Supreme Court's *Olmstead* Decision Are Still Unfolding" (GAO-01-1167T). Based on the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, the 1999 *Olmstead* decision addresses issues related to the setting in which a person with disabilities receives care. The report includes current information about the long-term care population and similarities and differences in state Medicaid programs. The report is available on the GAO website: www.gao.gov.

Another relevant report is "The High Service or High Privacy Assisted Living Facilities, Their Residents and Staff: Results from a National Survey," by Catherine Hawes and Charles D. Phillips, Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, and Miriam Rose, Myers Research Institute, November 2000. Chapter IV presents data on staff characteristics and training, staff activities and tasks, staff knowledge of aging and care and other topics related to staffing. The report is one of many from the National Study of Assisted Living for the Frail Elderly sponsored by the HHS Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. The report is available at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/reports/hshp.htm>

Finally, relevant to the recent tragic events, the 60-page booklet developed by the HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, "Psychosocial Issues for Older Adults in Disasters," (DHHS Publication No. ESDRB SMA 99-3323) is available free from the National Mental Health Services Knowledge Exchange Network, P.O. Box 42490, Washington, DC 20015. You can see the booklet at www.mentalhealth.org.

NAGEC

Andrea Sherman, PhD, President NAGEC

Bureau of Health Professions Day at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting is on Saturday, November 17th, 2001. The group name is "HRSA/BHP – Geriatrics Initiatives Meeting." The meeting is scheduled from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in Conference Room 7M at the Hilton (720 Michigan Avenue) in Chicago. Immediately following the HRSA meeting will be the NAGEC Meeting from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

Elyse Perweiler, MP.P, R.N. represented NAGEC at the SAMHSA meeting in Washington, D.C. The agenda included key issues facing older adults that NAGEC is concerned about and their link to health care, substance abuse and mental health, current effective approaches, organizational priorities, and gaps in current response of the Federal agencies. Comments from these sessions will be compiled and summarized. We are working towards the incorporation of NAGEC and will be formulating a way for one representative from each GEC to vote on the amended bylaws. NAGEC sent a letter to Senator Tim Hutchinson supporting the Advancement of Geriatric Education (AGE) act. This legislation supports the NAGEC goal of at least one funded GEC in every state. On behalf of NAGEC we extend our thoughts and prayers to all those suffering from the recent events.

Re-printed so that all GECs have this important information:

Robert Roush, EdD, MPH, Project Director, Texas Consortium of GECs
Stacy Barnes, MGS, Director of Administration, Wisconsin GEC

All GECs in the country have an opportunity to be connected to each other through the **NAGEC listserv** which is maintained by the TCGEC headquarters at the Huffington Center on Aging, Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. However, it has recently come to our attention that not all GECs are subscribers! Please join us in encouraging all GECs to subscribe to the listserv so that our national communication channel is strengthened. This system affords all GECs the opportunity to: communicate cost-effectively and frequently with each other; be alerted to important announcements and public policy updates; query colleagues about the availability of geriatric educational resources; report committee/task force progress; and promote upcoming collaborative programs.

If you or someone you know has not already subscribed to the NAGEC listserv, you may do so simply by sending an e-mail message to Bob Roush at <rroush@bcm.tmc.edu>. You will promptly be enrolled as a subscriber and you will be officially notified by the listserv manager when you can begin using the listserv. Please note that the system is an unmoderated broadcast; thus, your message goes to all subscribers on the listserv. To send an email to everyone, simply address your message to: tcgec@listserv.bcm.tmc.edu

As use of the NAGEC listserv grows, we are considering using it instead of the PIPELINE as our primary vehicle for regularly communicating GEC news. By doing so, significant time and money would be saved, while providing regular communications to a much larger audience. We would like to know what you think about this proposal. Please email your comments to: wgecnet@marquette.edu

VIRGINIA GEC

Angela Rothrock, MS, Senior Project Coordinator

The Virginia Geriatric Education Center (VGEC) has recently become one of only three Authorized Validation Organizations in the United States. The VGEC is working with Naomi Feil, who developed Validation, and her daughter Vicki de Klerk-Rubin in providing people in the field of healthcare a way of reaching disoriented older people.

What Is Validation? Developed from 1963 to 1980 by Naomi Feil, M.S.W., A.C.S.W., it is a tested method that helps older disoriented people reduce stress and enhance dignity and happiness. It is accepting the feelings of another person. It is reaching out with empathy to the person with memory impairment - a technique which may help to restore one's dignity.

Who Needs Validation? Individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's and related disorders who are disoriented in the later stages of life.

How can I become a Validation Practitioner? This is a five block workshop taught by Vicki de Klerk-Rubin that will certify its attendees to become a Validation Practitioner. Workshop will be held in Richmond, Virginia. Once certified, a Validation Practitioner will be able to: practice individual Validation, give short presentations of Validation for small groups and provide support to interested people.

Block One: February 8 & 9, 2002: Basic Validation Theory and Beliefs, Stages and Techniques Erickson's Stages and Stage One: Malorientation. How to begin with Validation. Assignments with Stage One Clients. **Block Two: April 12 & 13, 2002:** Stage Two: Time Confusion with demonstration and practice. Discussion of experiences. Assignments with Stage Two Clients. **Block Three: July 11 & 12, 2002:** Stage Three: Repetitive Motion with demonstration and practice. Discussion of experiences. Assignments with Stage Three Clients. **Block Four: September 13 & 14, 2002:** Stage Four: Vegetation with demonstration and practice. Discussion of experiences. Assignments with Stage Four Clients. **Block Five: November 15 & 16, 2002:** Written test and practical demonstration of Individual Validation.

For more information or to register for the program contact : Angela G. Rothrock, MS, (804) 828-9060, Fax: (804) 828-7905, or Email: arothroc@vcu.edu

NORTH CAROLINA GEC

Sarah Washburn, Project Coordinator

The North Carolina Geriatric Education Center is co-sponsoring with the National Association for Continence and the Institute on Aging at UNC a national conference: on Urinary Incontinence, **Bridging Research and Practice in Urinary Incontinence**, April 4-5, 2002 at the Westin Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina. We are seeking nine Expert Exhibitors who can provide innovative solutions to the management of Urinary Incontinence in a variety of health care settings.

Are you participating in a new, exciting, and innovative community-based program? Have you a novel approach to the application of research to the practice of UI healthcare in assisted living or home health? Are you tackling the issue of UI in long-term care facilities in a wholistic or unique way?

Share your innovations in Urinary Incontinence as an expert exhibitor in an interactive workshop format!

Consider becoming an expert exhibitor for an interactive conference. Throughout the day and a half conference, participants of problem-based workshops will seek your expertise and experience as they address major issues in improving care in UI. As an exhibitor you will be available to participants and provide to them your innovative, new or wholistic solutions in addressing quality care in communities, assisted living situations and long-term care facilities. For selected exhibitors, registration is free!

For more information, Please contact: Sarah Washburn, Project Coordinator, Geriatric Education Training Alliance (GETA) UNC-CH School of Medicine, Program on Aging CB#7550 141 MacNider Bldg Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7550 (919) 966-6974 swashbur@med.unc.edu or check out our website at: www.med.unc.edu/aging/GETA/

STANFORD GEC

Bonnie Napier, M.S., O.T.R. and Melen McBride, Ph.D, R.N.

A Tip for Web Module Development

At the Distance Learning National GEC Network meeting held August 22-24, 2001 in Bethesda, Maryland, participants expressed the need to exchange information on technical aspects of Distance Learning through the Pipeline and also online in the future. We noted a wide range of technical knowledge and skills among the participants. For this issue, our contribution to this section will focus on building technical knowledge and its practical application for online product development, i.e., web based training modules.

Web Editor – The term refers to a computer program that makes it easier for you (an educator who have some technical skills) to use common word processing techniques to type (or create) web pages and link them as a web site. This is how it works: After typing the text or words, the web editor changes them to the web programming language. Each editor has its own quirks and variation. Your webmaster may prefer a particular program because it works better with the institution's server or simply because he/she can help you better with an editor that is familiar to her/him. These web editors include Macromedia Dreamweaver, Adobe PageMill, Microsoft PageMaker, and others. (Please note that naming a few products here does not constitute an endorsement of them). While hard core technologists (techies) prefer to start with html programming, our preference at SGEC is to start with an editor that allows ease with switching between the authoring (text of content) and the html programming language to make it easier to create a page; then look at the language that makes it work, similar to the way a user can switch between the document and programming language in WordPerfect.

Curriculum and content must maintain the educational focus. The web is a different way of publishing, and just as books use editors knowledgeable in layout, the same is helpful in publishing to the web. Often, the book layout editors do not know the content or the best way for the reader to learn. They know what can be done between the content and the printing press. In a similar way, the hard core technical specialists know how to make the web-based printing press work, but educators must drive the content.

To continue to support the GECs' DL activities we are interested in developing other brief discussions on the practical aspects of online technology for educators. Please send us your suggestions on other technical terms we could write about for the Pipeline to TSacks@Stanford.Edu.

OHIO VALLEY GEC

Arleen Johnson, PhD, Project Director

The Ohio Valley Appalachia Regional GEC is a consortium of the Universities of Kentucky, Louisville, and Cincinnati and East Tennessee State University serving the states of Kentucky, Southern Ohio, and Eastern Tennessee. In conjunction with the Kentucky Telecare network also funded by HRSA, and the Kentucky Area Health Education Centers, we conducted eight interactive video teleconferences that provided 1,644 hours of content on topics related to mental health, mental retardation, developmental disabilities and aging for one hundred and fifteen community mental health center professionals in fifteen remote sites across Kentucky.

The OVAR/GEC will offer ten interactive video teleconferences this project year, again targeting community mental health center workers. Due to increased demand, the series will be transmitted to twenty distant sites. Forty contact hours of continuing education credit is granted for attending the series.

The evaluations indicated that mental health workers were extremely pleased to have high quality continuing education available to them in their local communities through the interactive video series. They indicated that they had expanded their diagnostic and treatment skills while saving money and time by not having to leave their work sites to attend out-of-town training sessions.

One component of the interactive video series enabled case consultations with mental health/MR/DD/aging experts. We have learned that workers are reluctant to discuss cases within the interactive teleconference setting. This may be due to factors such as inexperience with the teleconference equipment, camera shyness, concerns about confidentiality, or limited experience with treating older clients. Efforts are underway to learn more and to increase participation in case discussions. For more information, contact Arleen Johnson, PhD, OVAR/GEC Director at 859/257-8314 or arleen@pop.uky.edu.

The OVAR/GEC also is developing a model curricula on best care practices that will assist faculty and care providers to identify, analyze, and replicate best care practices for older persons residing in long term care settings across Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee. This module will be available on the OVAR/GEC interactive Internet site in the coming year. Traditional instructional modules are available for immediate use on the topics of consumer issues related to medical care, critical pathways, ethics, Medicare managed care, interdisciplinary team care, and case management. For information, contact Arleen Johnson, PhD, OVAR/GEC Director at 859/257-8314 or arleen@pop.uky.edu.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
October 5th, 12th & 19th, 2001	I.G.T. Nursing Training Module	Miami Jewish Home & Hospital for the Aged Miami, FL	Drace Langford 305-243-6270 Langford@miami.edu
October 8 –9, 2001	Best Practices in Aging Conference	Milwaukee Hilton City Center Milwaukee, WI	Julie Murphy 800-799-7878 wgecnet@marquette.edu
October 10 th , 2001	Legislative Priorities in Geriatrics From the 107 th Congressional Session	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Anne E. Francione 716-760-6375
October 10 – 24, 2001	Best Practices in Aging Virtual Conference	On-line	Julie Murphy wgecnet@marquette.edu
October 12 th , 2001	Mental Health & Quality of Life Improvement	Utica, NY	NYU Nursing 212-998-5618
October 16 th , 2001	Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Palliative Care	Bronx VA Medical Center	NYU Nursing 212-998-5618
October 17 th , 2001	Depression, Anxiety & Delirium at the End of Life	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Anne E. Francione 716-760-6375
October 19 th , 2001	Comfort the Dying: Healing Ways to Care for Patients & Families	Los Altos, California	Teresa Sacks 650-494-3986 tsacks@leland.stanford.edu
October 20 & 21, 2001	The Geriatric Foot & Ankle	Mount Sinai Medical Center	NYU Nursing 212-998-5618
October 24 th , 2001	Grandparents & Systems United: Partnership for Success	Fordham University	NYU Nursing 212-998-5618
October 24 th , 2001	Health Action Update: Physical Activity in Older Adults	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Anne E. Francione 716-760-6375
October 26 th , 2001	Palliative Care	Utica, NY	NYU Nursing 212-998-5618
October 31 st , 2001	Nature & Management of Chronic Aphasia	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Anne E. Francione 716-760-6375
November 1 st , 2001	Ethical Decision Making in Nutrition & Hydration Therapy Conference	Embassy Suites Little Rock, Arkansas	Soledad H-D Jasin, PhD 501-257-5551 jasinsoledadh@uams.edu